Message Text

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62.

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 SPC-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 CU-04

NIC-01 EUR-25 DRC-01 IO-14 /128 W

----- 012686

R 181500Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8778

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SCUL, SF

SUBJ: USSALEP APPARENTLY WILL SURVIVE SAG DISPLEASURE

REF: PRETORIA 3644

- 1. WILLEM GROBLER, DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES-SOUTH AFRICA LEADER EXCHANGE PROGRAM (USSALEP), TELLS US HE BELIEVES SAG WILL TAKE NO ACTION AGAINST THE ORGANIZATION. GROBLER MET LAST WEEK WITH USSALEP BOARD CHAIRMAN DAWID DE VILLIERS, WHO HAD DISCUSSED USSALEP WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER.
- 2. VORSTER TOLD DE VILLIERS HE NOT YET POSSESSED OF FULL FACTS ABOUT USSALEP. BOTH VORSTER AND MINFINANCE DIEDERICHS HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED PRIVATELY THAT MINDEFENSE BOTHA'S ALLEGATIONS ABOUT USSALEP AND AMERICAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS WERE EXTREME, BUT THEY DEFINITELY ANNOYED AT WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE USSALEP'S MEDDLING IN SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
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3. USSALEP OFFICIALS HAVE CONCLUDED THAT ATTACK BY

BOTHA ON USSALEP STEMMED FROM OUTSPOKEN ANTI-APARTHEID STATEMENTS BY BLACK AMERICAN, JAMES JOSEPH, DURING RECENT USSALEP CONFERENCE NEAR DURBAN, AND BY FREQUENCY DURING PAST SEVERAL WEEKS OF MULTIRACIAL PARTICIPATION AT UNITED PARTY, VERLIGTE ACTION, PROGRESSIVE PARTY, AND USSALEP MEETINGS. WITH GENERAL ELECTION COMING IN 1974 OR 1975, NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO EVENTS WHICH COULD ANGER OR FRIGHTEN WHITE ELECTORATE.

4. BECAUSE VORSTER SEEMS TO HAVE SET ISSUE ASIDE WITHOUT TAKING ANY ACTION, AND BECAUSE PROMINENT NATIONALISTS WHO SUPPORTED USSALEP HAVE NOT WITHDRAWN THEIR BACKING, DE VILLIERS AND GROBLER FEEL ORGANIZATION WILL WEATHER STORM THAT FOLLOWED BOTHA'S ACCUSATIONS. TO BE ON SAFE SIDE, HOWEVER, USSALEP WILL, GROBLER SAYS, MAINTAIN VERY LOW PROFILE FOR SOME TIME TO COME. HURD

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINT, SCUL, SF, USSALEP, US-S AFRICA LEADER EXCHANGE PROGRAM, (GROBLER, WILLIAM), (DE VILLIERS, DAWID)

To: STATE

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